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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01899 141823Z

64
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /136 W
---------- 085387
R 141706Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1519
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NI, CA
SUBJECT: GOWON'S PERFORMANCE AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

REF : LAGOS 6555

1. REFTEL REPORTS IMPRESSION THAT GOWON ACQUITTED HIMSELF WITH DISTINCTION AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. WE WOULD GO FURTHER AND SAY THAT GOWON WAS PERHAPS THE STAR ATTRACTION AMONG THE SEVERAL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN OTTAWA AUG 2-10. HIS INFORMAL, FRIENDLY AND FORTHCOMING MANNER, HIS READINESS TO TALK WITH THE PRESS, AND WHAT CAN ONLY BE CALLED HIS PERSONAL CHARISMA WERE ENORMOUSLY WELL RECEIVED HERE.

2. COMMONWEALTH MEETINGS WERE CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC. WE ARE TOLD HOWEVER THAT, IN INFORMAL SEMINAR-LIKE DISCUSSIONS, GOWON WAS BOTH FORCEFUL AND ARTICULATE WHILE IMPRESSING THOSE PRESENT AS A REASONABLE, MODERATE AFRICAN LEADER. OUTSIDE THE MEETING, GOWON'S CHARM AND INFORMALITY WERE CLEARLY REFLECTED IN WARM PRESS COVERAGE AND WORDS OF PRAISE FROM HIS CANADIAN HOSTS.
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3. A PHOTOGRAPH WIDELY REPRINTED SHOWED GOWON AT OFFICIAL RECEPTION WITH HIS ARM AROUND MUJIBUR RAHMAN OF BANGLADESH FOLLOWING LONG AND OBVIOUSLY FRIENDLY TALK. ALTHOUGH GOWON LATER ANNOUNCED IN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WOULD HAVE TO WAIT RESOLUTION OF PAKISTANI-BANGLADESH DIFFICULTIES, THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT LEFT OF GOWON'S PERSONAL RAPPORT WITH SHEIKH MUJIBUR. GOWON WAS CERTAINLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE AFRICAN LEADER PRESENT. EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF GOWON'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE.
JOHNSON

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** n/a
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1973
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1973OTTAWA01899
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** n/a
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Page Count:** 2
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** LAGOS 6555
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** garlanwa
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 07 SEP 2001
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
**Review Markings:**

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** GOWON'S PERFORMANCE AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.
**TAGS:** PFOR, NI, CA
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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